



AMPTHILL
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
1898.



AMPTHILL,

March, 1899.

*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Report upon the Sanitary condition of the Town of Ampthill, for the year 1898.

The Population of Ampthill, according to Census of 1891, is 2,294. Area in acres, 1,742.

The number of Births registered during the year was 37, including 19 Males and 18 Females, corresponding to an Annual Birth-rate of 16·1 per 1,000, as compared with 23·4 per 1,000 in 1897.

The number of Deaths registered during the year was 40, including 22 Males and 18 Females, corresponding to an Annual Death-rate of 17·4 per 1,000. Of these deaths 7 occurred in the Workhouse, including 1 Ampthill parishioner, making the corrected Death-rate 14·8 per 1,000, the same as in 1897.


Of the total number of Deaths 6 occurred under 1 year, corresponding to an Annual Death-rate of 162·1 to 1,000 Births, as compared with 108 in 1897; 4 between 1 and 5 years; 2 between 15 and 25 years; 12 between 25 and 65 years; and 16 over 65 years.

PREVALENCE OF DISEASE.—4 Deaths were due to Bronchitis; 10 to Heart Disease; 5 to Cancer; 2 to Phthisis; 2 to Whooping Cough; 1 to Atrophica Cerebralis; 1 to Paralysis Agitans; 1 to Intestinal Obstructions; 6 to Old Age; 1 to Pulmonary Congestion; 3 to Convulsions; 1 to Inanition; 2 to Tuberculosis; and 1 to Athnoma.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act still continues in force in the Town. 6 cases were notified during the year: 1 case of Diphtheria and 5 cases of Erysipelas. The case of Diphtheria was notified in October; the probable cause was the entrance of sewer gas into the house.

A slight outbreak of Measles occurred in the Spring. Whooping Cough was prevalent in the latter part of the year, and two deaths were registered from it. The mortality from Phthisis is much lower than in former years. The Infantile mortality is in no way, that I can ascertain, specially due to any insanitary condition of the Town. I consider improper feeding and maternal ignorance are the chief causes in producing a high death-rate among infants.

MEANS OF PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Notification, strict home isolation, children from infected families are prohibited from attending



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school, closing of schools when necessary, the houses and premises in which contagious illness has occurred are thoroughly disinfected by means of fumigations with sulphurous acid gas. Disinfectants are supplied gratuitously. Inquiries are made as to the cause of the disease, and the Sanitary condition of the premises are investigated, and defects remedied. The Town is without any Hospital accommodation for infectious cases.

VACCINATION.—The new Vaccination Act I consider must surely have a disastrous result in the future.

WATER SUPPLY.—The condition of the Water Supply remains the same. This is not due to the Council failing to realise that a pure water supply is urgently needed, but to the great difficulty in locating a place where water could be found. The Sanitary Authority are at present examining a place where they hope to obtain a good supply.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—A scheme for re-sewering the Town, and for sewage disposal, has been approved by the Local Government Board, and will be commenced immediately.

REMOVAL OF REFUSE.—A system of public scavenging is well carried out, refuse being removed twice a week from each house.

POLLUTION OF STREAMS AND WATERCOURSES.—No complaints have been made during the year.

PREMISES REGULATED BY SANITARY AUTHORITIES.—The slaughter-houses, cow-sheds, dairies, and bakehouses have been periodically inspected, and their sanitary condition maintained. There is no factory in the town besides Messrs. Allen & Co., Manufacturing Chemists, the Brewery of Morris & Co., and the Foundry for Agricultural Implements, &c. These do not employ any considerable number of hands.

HOUSE SANITATION.—The general condition of the houses of the working classes is good. There is no overcrowding, either of houses upon ground or of inhabitants in the dwellings.

ADOPTION OF PERMISSIVE ACTS AND BYE-LAWS.—The following Act and Bye-Laws are in force—Infectious Disease (Notification) Act and Public Health Act.

GENERAL SANITATION AND ADMINISTRATION.—I have periodically inspected the District, accompanied by the Sanitary Inspector. Any influences likely to affect the public health have been corrected as far as practicable.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM J. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

